

Line 20, after "illustrated.", insert -Alternatively the wire can be

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following claims:

62. The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the radially diverging support members create a conical penumbra.

63. A surgical apparatus for excising a target tissue mass comprising:  
an elongated housing having a longitudinal axis;  
at least one support positioned within the elongated housing and  
movable from a first position collapsed within the housing to a second position  
extending from the housing where the at least one support radially diverges with  
respect to the longitudinal axis of the elongated housing, and  
an electrocautery cutting wire advanced by the at least one support  
from a collapsed position to a second position outside the elongated housing, the  
electrocautery wire being advanced past the target tissue mass, and a tip of the  
at least one support extending past the target tissue mass.

64. The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the at least one support radially  
diverges when extended from the housing to define a region larger in area than  
the area of the target tissue mass.

65. The apparatus of claim 64, further comprising a tissue piercing element to  
provide access to the target tissue mass.

66. The apparatus of claim 63, further comprising a second electrocautery wire  
advanced by a second support member.

67. A surgical apparatus for excising a target tissue mass comprising an  
elongated housing, electrocautery cutting means for cutting tissue, the cutting  
means advanceable from a collapsed position within the housing to an expanded  
position outside the housing and advanceable distal of the tissue mass to be  
removed, support means for enabling movement of the electrocautery cutting means  
from the collapsed position to the expanded position, the electrocautery cutting  
means defining a tissue cutting area having a dimension greater than a transverse  
dimension of the elongated housing.

68. The apparatus of claim 67, further comprising means extending from the  
housing for creating access to the tissue mass.

69. The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the apparatus defines a conical penumbra  
for removing a conical swath of tissue.

70. The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the electrocautery cutting means forms a  
cutting loop having a diameter larger than a transverse dimension of the  
elongated housing and larger than the diameter of the tissue mass to be removed.

71. The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the cutting means are cinched together after advancement to the larger diameter.

72. The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the support means are spring biased radially outwardly.

73. The apparatus of claim 71, wherein the support means are spring biased radially outwardly.

74. A surgical apparatus for excising a target tissue mass comprising:  
an elongated housing having a channel;  
a plurality of elongated members positioned within the channel of the elongated housing and movable from a first collapsed position within the housing to a second expanded position outside the channel of the housing, the elongated members in the second position defining a tissue excision region having a diameter larger than a transverse dimension of the elongated housing; and  
at least one electrocautery wire movable from a first position within the elongated housing to a second expanded position.

75. The apparatus of claim 74, further comprising a tissue piercing member distal of the elongated housing to provide access to the target tissue mass.

76. The apparatus of claim 74, wherein the elongated members radially diverge as they are advanced from the elongated housing.

77. The apparatus of claim 76, further comprising a tissue piercing member distal of the elongated housing to provide access to the target tissue mass.

78. The apparatus of claim 76, further comprising a tissue containment bag advanceable from the channel in the elongated housing to envelop the target tissue mass.

79. The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the elongated members are spring biased to radially diverge.

80. The apparatus of claim 74, further comprising an expandable sheath advanceable from the elongated housing to provide a radially inward force on the target tissue mass.

#### REMARKS

This application is a continuation of application serial no. 09/838,722, filed April 19, 2001, which is a divisional of application serial no.